

April 8, 2020

To all Iowa DOT Contractors and Suppliers:

RE: Construction Employees at Campgrounds

Keeping the transportation system operating safely and efficiently is at the heart of the Iowa Department of Transportation's (DOT) mission. As we navigate our way through this unprecedented time, the workforce from both the Iowa DOT and the contractors remain committed to supporting the movement of people and goods throughout Iowa, so that everyone can play their role to respond to the COVID-19 crisis.

As of right now, we have \$775 million in construction planned for this season, and our forces continue to work on critical infrastructure projects. Contractor crews are beginning to spread out across Iowa to work on these projects. Many workers on these crews take advantage of campgrounds to live while they are away from their permanent residences.

On April 6, Governor Kim Reynolds directed that all public and private campgrounds shall be closed to temporary recreational use. However, the Iowa DOT in partnership with the Iowa DNR has determined that construction workers using campgrounds as part of their work is considered a nonrecreational camping accommodation.

We have developed some suggestions to assist if you or your employees are questioned by law enforcement officials or campground owners who are enforcing rules regarding the closure of campgrounds.

- 1) Stay calm—law enforcement officers are just trying to execute the duties assigned to them and protect the people in their jurisdictions. Campground owners are trying to follow the directives of the Governor and protect their businesses.
- 2) Fill out the "DNR COVID-19 Nonrecreational Camping Accommodation Request" form attached to this note. We encourage workers who are utilizing campgrounds to keep an approved copy of this form at their camp site.
- 3) Show the law enforcement officer this letter that explains that you are working in the transportation industry and explain that your stay should not fall under temporary recreational use as outlined in the proclamation. Here is the specific language from the Governor's April 6 Proclamation:
"All public and private campgrounds shall be closed to temporary recreational use. This order shall not prohibit the use of a campground by a long-term or permanent tenant who resides at the campground. All cabins and yurts in state parks shall also be closed to temporary residents."

- 4) Follow the directions of the law enforcement officer, even if that means receiving a citation or ticket, or returning home.
- 5) Once the situation has ended with the officer, contact the State Construction Engineer, Wes Musgrove at 515-239-1843 or wes.musgrove@iowadot.us, who will take appropriate measures in an attempt to amicably rectify the problem.

Please feel free to contact Wes Musgrove, State Construction Engineer, with any questions or comments you may have.

Sincerely,



Mitchell J. Dillavou, P.E.
Chief Engineer
Highway Administration



Scott C. Marler
Director
Iowa Department of Transportation

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